

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 328

By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Helen Mays Bowman,
on being selected to the Tennessee Teachers'
Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Helen Mays Bowman is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman has recently been selected to be enshrined in the Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman will join the ranks of numerous educators who have been previously inducted into the circle of honor, which is co-sponsored each year by Middle Tennessee State University and overseen by a Board of Governors that represents major educational organizations statewide; and

WHEREAS, Helen Mays Bowman completed a Master of Arts degree program in reading education at East Tennessee State University (ETSU). Her thesis was comprised largely of a survey of recently graduated elementary majors to determine their perceptions of the preparation they received for teaching reading in the classroom; publication of the findings of her research resulted in a major revision of ETSU's teacher education curriculum; and

WHEREAS, as a recently retired Language Arts teacher from Towne Acres Elementary School in Johnson City, Tennessee, Helen Mays Bowman served with acumen and alacrity for more than three decades as a public school teacher. She also taught at four other elementary schools in Tennessee, including Kingsley in Sullivan County, Andrew Jackson in Kingsport, and Gray and Jonesborough, both in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Helen Mays Bowman is currently a member of the adjunct faculty of the graduate education division at Milligan College; in a dual role, she is both the Supervisor of student teachers and an Instructor of a required course, "Teaching Reading with Children's Literature"; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously during her career to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, not content to leave her most impressive work in the classroom, Ms. Bowman has presented programs at the national and international level at the annual conventions of both the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman has also served in the capacity of a presenter at the following events: the East Tennessee Education Association's convention, the annual conference of the Tennessee Reading Association, and the ETSU's annual reading workshop; and

WHEREAS, in addition, she has been a consultant for publishing companies,: McGraw-Hill/MacMillan and Scott-Foresman; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman was chosen for participation in the Santa Fe Reading Symposium, at which were assembled outstanding educators, researchers, and authors from the United States and Canada. Her self-originated, literature-based instructional program has received national and area-wide recognition, and two of her creations have received awards from the Tennessee School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, throughout her years with the Santa Fe Reading Symposium, Ms. Bowman has served as either a convener, host, or instructional implementer. In these capacities, she worked alongside such award-winning authors and illustrators as Avi, Ashley Bryan, Betsy Byars, Jean Fritts, E.L. Konigsburg, Lois Lowery, Patricia MacLachlan, and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman has conducted several workshops across Tennessee for the State Department of Education as well as interest sessions for Metro Nashville's system-wide in-service convocations. She has also lended her expertise the statewide committee that initiated standards for Tennessee's language arts curricula, served as a continuing consultant

for ETSU's teacher preparation program, and participated in the Governor's Academy for Writing at the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, showcasing her leadership skills, she led interest sessions at ETSU's Early Childhood Conference and is a former President and Program Chairperson of the Gilbreath Reading Council, a local affiliate of the International Reading Association; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman's interest in and dedication to children's literature has prompted her to write successful grant proposals for the *Teachers as Readers* program sponsored by the International Reading Association and to assume responsibility for the "Visiting Authors" programs in the public schools of Johnson City and Washington County; and

WHEREAS, she also lends her time and talents to such noteworthy tasks as volunteer tutoring in the Johnson City public school; due to her tireless dedication, she was the recipient of four Teacher of the Year awards and was nationally recognized seven times; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bowman truly serves as an inspiration to the educational community of Tennessee, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Helen Mays Bowman truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Helen Mays Bowman on being selected to the Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame, commend her for her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and dedication to excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.